

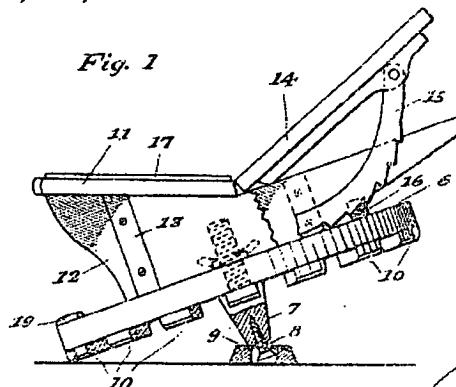
REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 11 have been amended and claims 12-14 are newly-added.

Claims 1-6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,283,210 to Kinney, in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0163231 to Hoshino.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Kinney discloses a mechanical-movement exerciser wherein a pivot leg 7 and a screw 8 act as a coupling mechanism to control the movement of the base 6 and seat 11. The Examiner cited Hoshino for the disclosure of a saddle with a pair curved recesses.



(Kinney, p. 1, ll. 42-47; Fig. 1).

Kinney does not disclose a motor. In the instant invention, on the other hand, a motor enables the oscillating motion of the support portion:

[E]ach of the motors 6 to 9 is controlled by the control unit 10 having a microcomputer as the main component. . . The motors 6 to 9 are selectively driven in accordance with the kind of exercise. Basically, the motors 6 are always driven to provide the oscillating motion of the seat member 2.

* * *

When the seat member 2 is oscillated under the condition that the user sits on the saddle 22, the position of center of gravity of the user is displaced relative to the foot position of the user.

(Specification, p. 8, ll. 22-30; p. 9, ll. 10-12).

Given that neither Kinney nor Hoshino disclose a motor, claim 1 has been amended to recite a motor to provide an oscillating motion to the saddle, and the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinney, in view of Hoshino, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,189,908 to Lu.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lu fails to disclose a motor. Accordingly, the foregoing discussion in relation to Kinney and Hoshino addresses this rejection, which should be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinney, in view of Hoshino, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,357,825 to Bavaresco.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Bavaresco fails to disclose a motor. Accordingly, the foregoing discussion in relation to Kinney and Hoshino addresses this rejection, which should be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinney, in view of Hoshino, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,682 to Jamieson.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Jamieson fails to disclose a motor. Accordingly, the foregoing discussion in relation to Kinney and Hoshino addresses this rejection, which should be withdrawn.

Newly-added claims 12-14 further define the saddle as having a directly attached detachable backrest, and a length adjustment mechanism that maintains saddle symmetry.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-14, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is respectfully solicited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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